

PARLIAMENT FEBRUARY 17 1986

Future of BL • Help with heating • Wapping clash

Land Rover bids to be decided on merit

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, gave an undertaking in the Commons that all bids for Land Rover would be considered on their merits...

Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said that the Government's proposals on their commercial merits in relation to the future of BL as a whole...

Mr Channon said it was in the interests of all concerned that the negotiations should come to an end as soon as they could...

£17m extra to reduce tax office backlog

The Inland Revenue is spending £17.5 million on overtime and employing casual staff in an attempt to reduce the backlog of work in local tax offices.

Law office drug theft

Drugs worth up to £150,000 have been stolen from prosecution offices in Glasgow and five trials in which the drugs were to be put off.

Attack on weather payments

SOCIAL SERVICES

An attack on the Government over fuel payments in the recent cold snap came from Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on Health and Social Security, in the Commons.

Walker happy to meet new union

COAL MINING

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, told the Commons that he had not yet met the leaders of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers but would be happy to do so if they requested a meeting.

Mr Walker: That is a matter of decision by the individual miner. Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Stockton South, SDP) said he welcomed that statement...



Newton: Decision for local officers

We have considered what would be the appropriate action in the light of the social security commissioners' findings.

Labour protest at guillotine

GAS BILL

It was adding insult to injury to deny MPs the opportunity of a full consideration of the Gas Bill, said Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on Commons affairs, said when speaking against the Government's guillotine motion on the Bill.

Benn fails to get debate on clash

WAPPING

Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) failed in an attempt to get an emergency Commons debate on the riot incidents involving the police at Wapping.

Independent taxation of women urged

HOUSE OF LORDS

A system of transferable taxation allowances was rejected by a House of Lords committee which considered a report of the EEC on income taxation and equal treatment for men and women.

Minister will not be drawn

OIL PRICES

Mr Alec Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Energy, refused to be drawn into saying whether the Government would step in if the price of North Sea oil fell any further.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Drug Trafficking Offences Bill, remaining stages; private Bills, Lords (2.30): local Government Bill, continuing first day; Marriage (Wales) Bill, second reading.

Job creation

NCB (Enterprises) Ltd were creating job opportunities at the rate of 300 a month, Mr David Hunt, Under Secretary of State for Energy, said.

Drunken driver 'like a mugger'

Drunken drivers could be likened to muggers and should receive mandatory jail sentences, Mr Peter Bottomley, a junior transport minister, suggested yesterday.

Encourage visitors, Ulster told

Mr Rhodes Boyson, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday urged people in Ulster not to take actions or make speeches which were likely to frighten away visitors.

Doctor's 'question of contract'

The Law Lords judgement, while permitting the supply of contraceptives where the girl was sufficiently mature to understand the issues involved and could not be persuaded to tell her parents, also emphasized the importance of the family.

40 jobs to go

Nearly 40 jobs will be lost when Triang Toys closes its factory at Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales, next month. Manufacturing will be transferred to Manchester.



Ducks, geese, swans, pigeons and seagulls ignore the dogs to gather and wheel around Mr George Cunningham who hatched the icy cold to feed the birds on the frozen Round Pond at Kensington Palace Gardens. Photograph: John Voos.

Walker happy to meet new union

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Vertical text on the left margin containing various small notices and page numbers.

Shuttle search sub may have located rogue rocket booster

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

A mini-submarine has taken photographs of what Nasa officials believe to be part of the wreckage of the shuttle Challenger's right-hand solid rocket booster, the prime suspect in the world's worst space disaster.

The photographs were taken at about 1200 ft by the crew of the small submersible searching the Atlantic Ocean bottom about 40 miles northeast of Cape Canaveral.

Nasa officials said the finding could not be confirmed until photographs and video tapes taken by divers from the submarine, Johnson Seahawk 2, were analysed by engineers familiar with the 149-ft-long solid rocket booster before the disastrous launch on January 28.

Manned and robot submersibles will continue to map the ocean floor in the area before salvage crews attempt to raise the objects.

Meanwhile, Mr William Graham, acting Nasa administrator, is reported to have relieved Mr Philip Culbertson of duties as general manager of the space agency, apparently in an effort to consolidate his hold over the agency during the inquiry into the Challenger explosion.

Mr Culbertson has been handling day-to-day operations of Nasa during the White House search for a new permanent administrator.

Township rioting as observers talk

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Three members of the Commonwealth "eminent persons group" had a working lunch in Cape Town yesterday with the South African Foreign Minister, Mr R F "Pik" Botha, according to government sources.

The "eminent persons", Mr Malcolm Fraser, former Australian Prime Minister, General Olusegun Obasanjo, former Nigerian military ruler, and Dame Nita Barrow, president of The World Council of Churches, have refused since their arrival on Sunday to say anything about their visit.

According to government sources, they met Mr Chris Heunis, the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, before their lunch with Mr Botha. They are expected to be in South Africa for a week.

It is thought likely that the group will have asked Mr Botha if they can visit Mr Nelson Mandela, the jailed leader of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC). There has been an upsurge of violence in black townships in the past few days, in which at least nine people died, an embarrassment for the Government during the Commonwealth group's visit.

Italian police check sinking of hydrofoils

From John Earle, Rome

Italian police are investigating the sinking of two 20-year-old hydrofoils in Sicily's Messina Harbour on January 30.

One rumour circulating in Messina is that the Israeli Secret Service sank the Cyprus-registered but apparently Arab-owned vessels because they were used by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The vessels were built in 1965 and 1966 and each was capable of carrying 125 passengers. They were anchored awaiting engine overhauls and repairs when sunk by explosives. The charges were seemingly set by experts.

Husak drops hint of economic reforms

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Mr Gustav Husak, the Czechoslovak leader, has given a surprise hint of economic reforms while speaking to party dignitaries at the weekend. He questioned the over-centralized state of the country's management.

Since the intervention of Warsaw Pact troops in 1968, inertia and inflexibility have been the hallmarks of Czechoslovakia's economy.

Fears that this state of affairs is increasingly irritating Moscow under Mr Gorbachev's leadership may have prompted Mr Husak's tentative hint of reform.

The Czechoslovak leader observed that the party would have to allow more decision-making to take place at a lower level. In a thinly-veiled reference to the higher standards of living of Hungary, whose economy has been developing along more flexible lines, Mr Husak said Czechoslovakia was watching carefully the measures introduced by socialist countries.

Vanishing Russians set puzzle for Greeks

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The simultaneous disappearance of a Soviet trade mission official, his young son, and a woman teacher at the Soviet Embassy school has intrigued Greek security services who are not certain whether they are dealing with defections, an elopement, or both.

Police sources have identified the missing Russians as Mr Viktor Gudarev, aged 50, head of the maritime section of the Soviet trade mission in Athens, his son Maxim, aged eight, and Miss Galina Gromova, aged 30, who teaches at the Soviet Embassy school for children of its staff.

The Greek Government said yesterday that neither the Ministry of Foreign Affairs nor the Ministry of Public Order had any knowledge of Soviet defections.

The US Embassy here, recently a magnet for East European defectors, declined to comment, in keeping with standard practice. Important defectors usually surface again in Washington after debriefing, as in the case of Mr Sergei Bokhan, who served in the Athens Embassy and defected last May to make revelations about Soviet intelligence in Greece.

The latest disappearance could explain the bizarre episode near the US Embassy early on Saturday when Greek police chased two identical Soviet Embassy cars circling with lights out.



Militant Sikhs vowing to defend the sanctity of the Akal Takht, the holiest Sikh shrine, at a rally in Amritsar at which they started rebuilding the shrine razed by colleagues last year.

Hindu leader shot dead by Sikhs

Delhi (Reuters) - Sikh extremists shot dead a Hindu leader near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, police said.

Two gunmen killed Chamraj Lal, president of the local branch of Shiv Sena, a right-wing Hindu group in Punjab state, which has a Sikh majority.

The attack on Sunday night was the worst incident of violence in a day marked by rival shows of force by Sikh hardliners and moderates battling for the Golden Temple, their religion's holiest shrine.

More than 100,000 moderates vowed at a rally in the historic village of Anandpur Sahib to wrest control of the Temple from student-led militants who occupied it on January 26.

At a rival gathering 100 miles away in Amritsar, the militants pledged not to give up the Temple complex without a fight.

BHOPAL: Police were yesterday ordered to shoot troublemakers on sight at Sehore where Hindu-Muslim violence left at least four dead on Sunday, the area police chief said (AFP reports).

The Francophone summit Mitterrand leads last stand against English invasion

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Opening the first Franco-English Summit at the Chateau of Versailles, outside Paris, President Mitterrand yesterday called on the representatives of 39 French-speaking countries to work together to defend their common language and culture.

Mitterrand said that the identity of the 130 million members of the French-speaking community in the world was threatened. It must rise up against the "fatal abolition of differences" or else run the risk of seeing itself "very often condemned to the role of subcontractor, translator or interpreter."

The three-day summit has been seen as an attempt to create a British-style Commonwealth of French-speaking countries. However, Mitterrand went out of his way to emphasize that "freedom from all allegiance and nostalgia" was the "best rampart against the threat to the francophone community's cultural identity."

Developments in Chad and Haiti are expected to be key topics among delegates, although neither is on the official agenda for the plenary sessions, which are due to be devoted to more general issues such as the adaptation of the French language for use in computers; Third World problems; strengthening cultural and political co-operation between francophone countries;

The participating countries

- Belgium, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros Islands, Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, France, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Lebaono, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, St Lucia, Senegal, Seychelles, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Zaire.

diplomats, civil servants, and even politicians to speak in a language other than their own" when abroad.

French was supposed to be one of the official languages of the United Nations and all its subsidiaries, the EEC, and most other international institutions, yet many of them ignored that rule, he said. The same was true of many international scientific congresses.

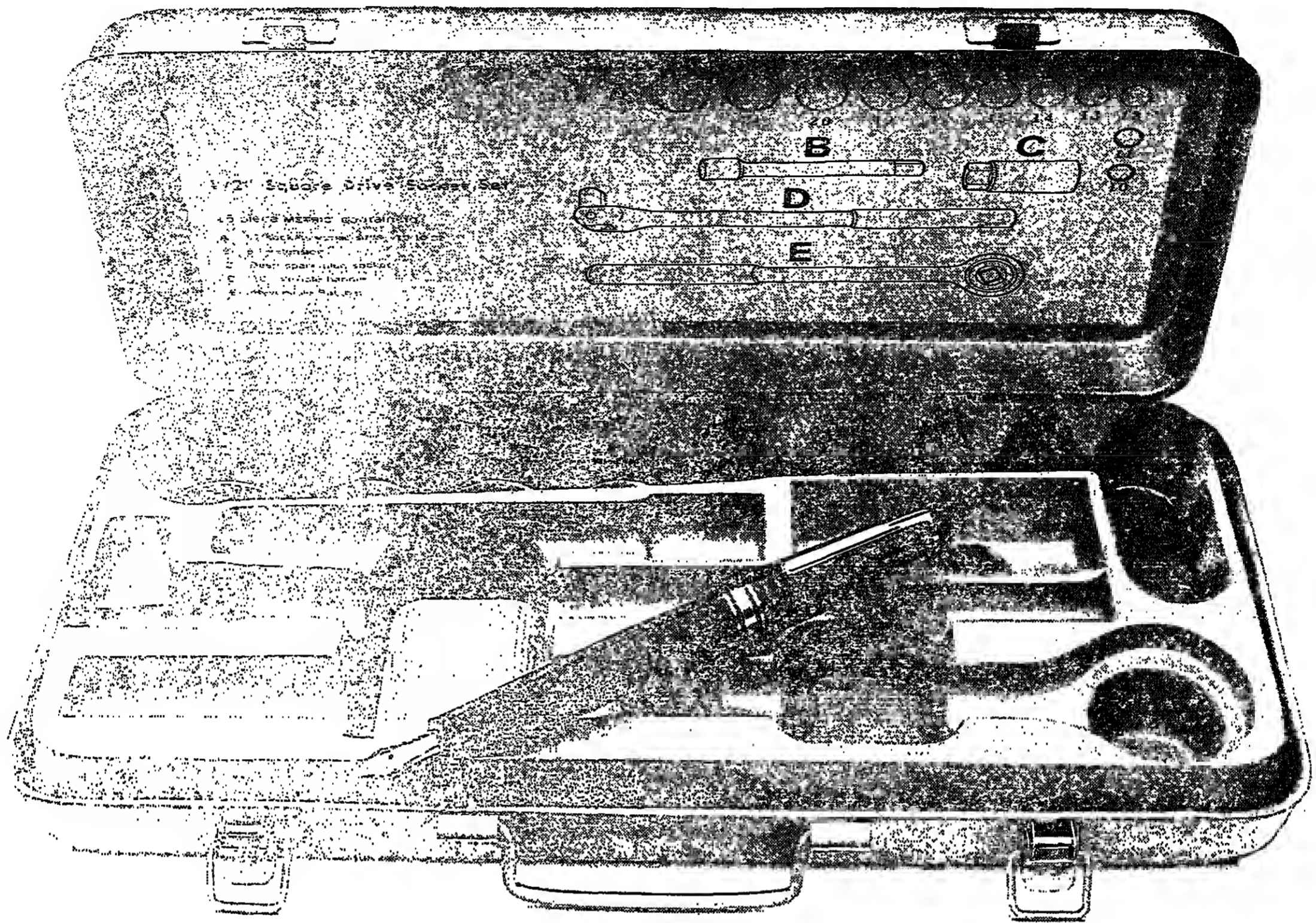
Advertisement for Lloyd's Life Linkplan featuring the slogan 'Cash if you die. Cash if you don't.' It includes an image of a 'Personalised Leather Wallet with built-in calculator' and a 'FREE Personalised Money Manager' calculator. The text explains how the Linkplan provides both insurance and a cash return on investment.

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Advertisement for 'GO FOR GROWTH' featuring the Lloyd's Life Multiple Growth Fund. It includes a table showing monthly contributions of £10, £15, £20, £25, and £30, and the resulting cash value over 5, 10, and 15 years. It also includes a 'HOW THE PLAN WORKS' section and a 'PERSONAL ILLUSTRATION REQUEST' form.

Advertisement for the 'FREE COVER VOUCHER' offer. It states that by sending in a personal illustration request, users can qualify for up to one month's free Linkplan cover and a free Personalised Money Manager. The offer is available to UK residents only.



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Portuguese presidential election

Triumph of the long-distance runner

From Richard Wigg, Lisbon

One of Dr Mario Soares's campaign posters in the presidential election showed Carlos Lopes, Portugal's Olympic gold medalist, endorsing his candidacy as "a fellow long-distance runner".



The victorious Dr. Mario Soares acknowledges the cheers of his supporters.

The two men could hardly be more different. Dr Soares, a poor administrator although three times Prime Minister, fought for democracy since his student days and suffered imprisonment and exile under the Salazar regime. He founded the Socialist Party in exile in 1973, rushed home as the April Revolution broke and then led the struggle to prevent a Communist takeover in 1975. He communicates easily, as demonstrated by the innumerable handshakes, kisses and embraces received from the populace during the presidential campaign.

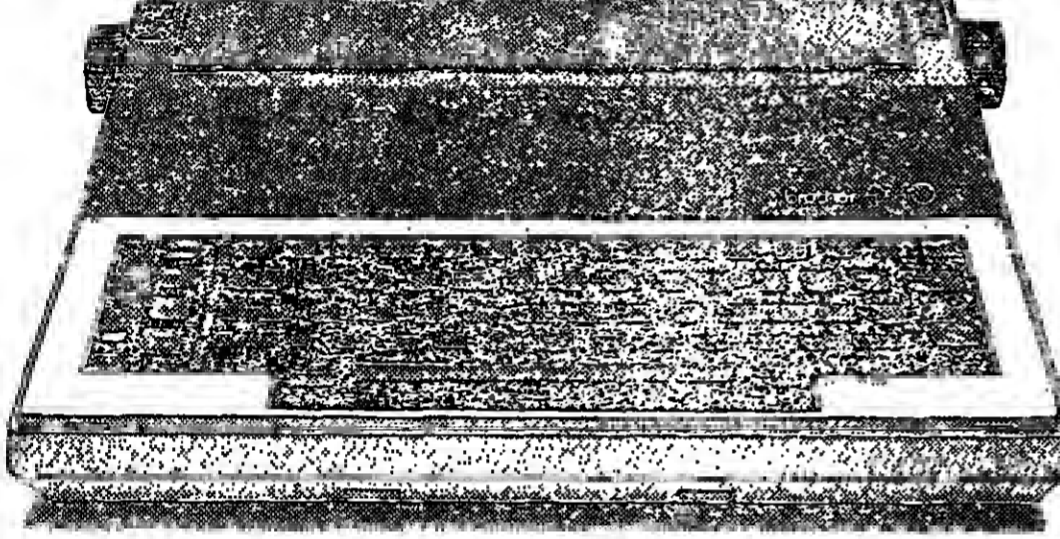
Anibal Cavaco Silva, the man who broke up the coalition of Socialists and Social Democrats that Dr Soares led until last summer. Senhor Cavaco told a press conference after Dr Soares's victory became clear that he saw no consequences for his Government and emphasized his good relations with the outgoing President. The remarks were cool. Senhor Cavaco backed Professor Freitas for much of the second round of the campaign, repeatedly attacking Dr Soares.

Dissident freed after campaign plan upset

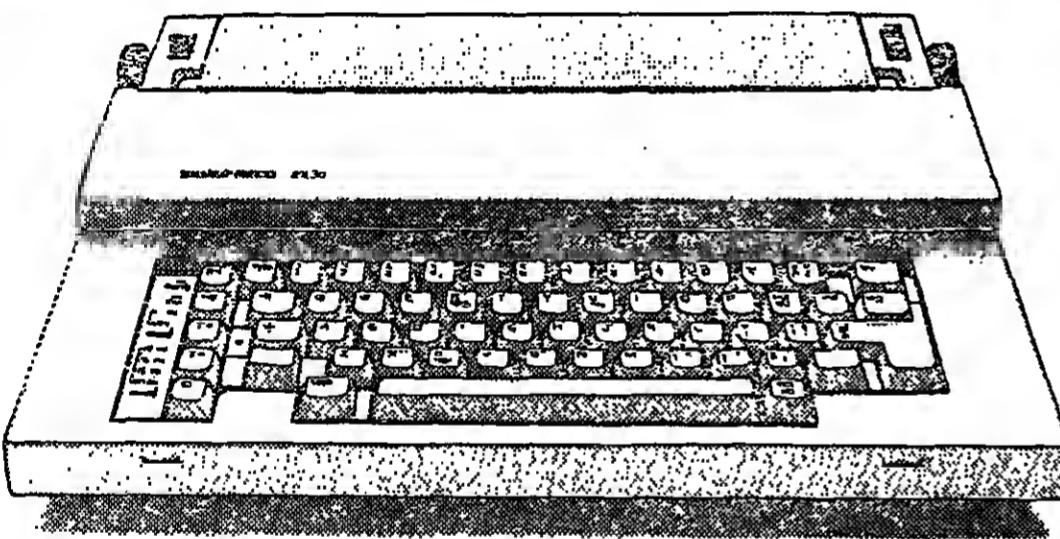
Seoul (Reuter) - Mr Kim Young Sam, South Korea's leading dissident, has been released from the house arrest imposed to prevent him attending a meeting of opposition politicians. However, Mr Kim Dae Jung, the country's best-known dissident, remains under police guard. Mr Kim Young Sam was to have chaired a meeting at the office of the Council for Promotion of Democracy (CPD) on how to counter a government crackdown on a campaign to gather 10 million signatures calling for direct presidential elections. Instead, he was confined to his house for about 11 hours. Police have arrested about 100 opposition politicians and dissidents. Hundreds of riot police still ringed Mr Kim Dae Jung's house and people were not allowed in or out. The two Kim's signed a petition, with about 200 other opposition figures, last week calling for election reforms despite a government warning that they faced up to seven years' jail for doing so. The US has condemned the government crackdown and called for the lifting of restrictions against Mr Kim Dae Jung.

The Philippines crisis Listening role for Reagan's envoy in Manila mission

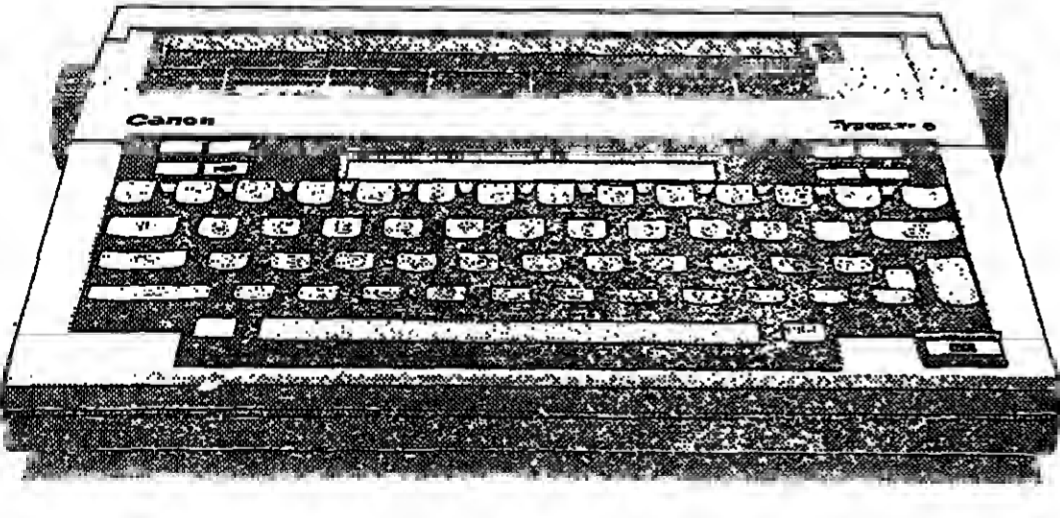
President Reagan's special envoy, Mr Philip Habib, visited President Marcos yesterday to begin the task of trying to find a way out of Washington's extraordinary dilemma after Mr Marcos's disputed victory in the dirtiest elections in Philippine history. The meeting lasted twice the planned one hour before Mr Habib went on to meet Mrs Corazon Aquino, who seems to grow stronger in her conviction that she is the real choice of the Filipino people. Mr Habib was accompanied by the head of the Philippines desk at the US State Department, Mr John Maisto, and the US Ambassador in Manila, Mr Stephen Bosworth. Mrs Aquino and her running mate, Mr Salvador Laurel, left Mr Habib in no doubt that the crisis can be resolved only by an orderly transfer of power to an Aquino presidency. "Mrs Aquino sounded very presidential, she conducted herself in a very presidential manner," said a briefing officer. Mrs Aquino did most of the talking, telling Mr Habib that she was the overwhelming choice of the people and that she intended to apply increasing pressure "until the popular will expressed last February 7 is vindicated and respected at the earliest possible time". Mr Habib appears to have played little part in the meeting, being content to listen to Mrs Aquino and some of her advisers. The two sides parted on the understanding that another meeting could be arranged if needed. Mr Habib finds the US faced with a president deter-



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Dingo case mother to fight on

Sydney (Reuter) - Mrs Lindy Chamberlain, who was convicted of killing her nine-week-old daughter, Azaria, said that her fight for justice was just beginning. She was speaking in public for the first time since her release from jail. Mrs Chamberlain, aged 37, who has maintained that the child was dragged away by a dingo, told a church meeting of 1,000 Seventh Day Adventists: "This is not just for our freedom: it is for you as well. . . We do not ever wish to see what has happened to be repeated in Australia." Beside her at the service at Cooranbong 90 miles north of Sydney were her husband, Michael, a former priest of the church. She was freed from Darwin Jail after serving three years of a life sentence for murder. Her release on bond followed the discovery of a tattered cardigan, which she identified as Azaria's, near the remote Ayers Rock camp site in central Australia where the child disappeared in August 1980. Authorities in the Northern Territory have said that her conviction stands pending a new inquiry into the case. Late last week, she negotiated exclusive interview rights with a media group owned by Mr Kerry Packer, and is expected to appear soon on his television station and in his magazine. Australian Women's Weekly. Local speculation is that the rights cost Mr Packer more than \$Aus250,000 (£125,000).

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE Poland: Czeslaw Bielecki

By Caroline Moorehead On Saturday, April 13, 1985, a unit of Security Police entered a house in Warsaw and emerged leading a man, his head covered with a blood-stained towel. As he was being put into a waiting police car, the man called out: "My name is Bielecki-Poleski. Tell everyone that they have arrested me." Czeslaw Bielecki is an architect, a graphic designer, a playwright and, under the pen name of Maciej Paleski, a political columnist. Before his arrest, he had been editor of one of Poland's three largest independent publishing houses, CDN, an acronym for "in be continued". During martial law, he was a regular contributor in the Paris-based emigre journal *Kultura*. In the 1970s, Mr Bielecki, who is 38, worked as an architect both in France and Saudi Arabia. With the birth of Solidarity in 1980, he became a founder member of the group DZI - House and Town - the first independent circle of architects. Early in 1983 Mr Bielecki was arrested, then released in the July amnesty. He continued working as an architect, at the same time publishing a series of political articles under his pen name, in which he argued that even under hopeless conditions much could be achieved. Mr Bielecki is now awaiting trial before a military court. On October 13 he began a hunger strike for the right to see his two sons, aged seven and 10, and to be able to receive books and be granted the status of political prisoner. He is now being force-fed.

China attacks Dalai Lama's view on Tibet

Peking (AFP) - China has again insisted that Tibet is Chinese territory and that "this historic reality is recognized by all who know its history." Mr Ma Mingqing, spokesman for the State Nationalities Affairs Commission, replying to a statement by the Dalai Lama that the territory had become a Chinese colony, said: "All hostile attacks are useless." He added: "After many years of struggling, Tibet's economy has developed greatly, people's lives have improved and the freedom of religious belief is protected by law." The Dalai Lama said in an article published last week by the *Hindustan Times* that Tibetans do not wish to live under Chinese domination. **Mr Bielecki: force-fed while on hunger strike**



Mr Bielecki: force-fed while on hunger strike

Guru flies to Crete

Kathmandu (Reuter) - Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, the rich man's guru, apparently left Nepal over the weekend, saying his disciples in Europe needed him. "He is now in Crete, we have just heard from our headquarters in Geneva," Swami Anand Arun, co-ordinator of the Kathmandu Rajneesh Centre, said. **less capital were angry at their guru's abrupt departure from a luxury hotel here.** Swami Arun denied that the departure of Rajneesh had anything to do with the arrival today of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on a five-day state visit. The guru, aged 54, left the US last November after pleading guilty to immigration charges.

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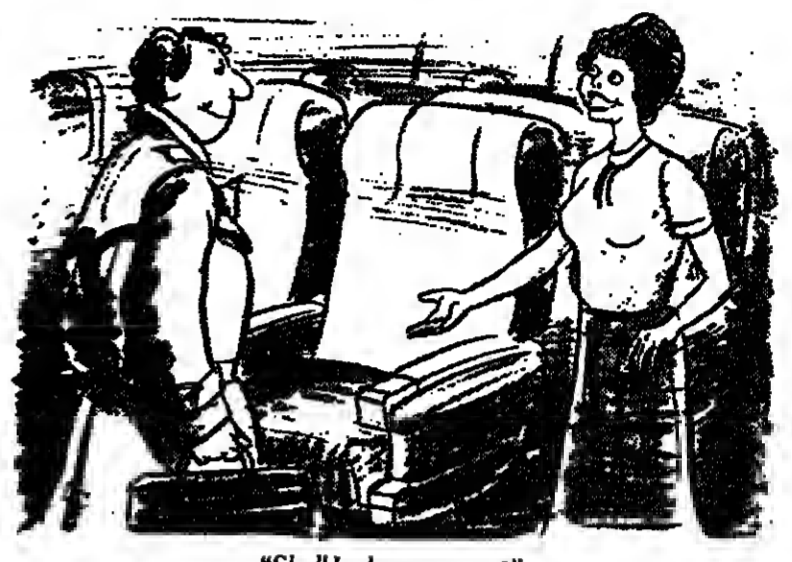
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"Good afternoon, sir."



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"Champagne, sir?"



"Your menu, sir."



"Enjoy your meal, sir."



"More coffee, sir?"



"The film soundtrack's on Channel 2."



"Would you like a blanket as well?"



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SPECTRUM

A dish for TV gluttons

Not long ago, perhaps as late as last week, it was enough to own a portable video Super-8 Camcorder and Cellnet telephone to feel at the forefront of white-hot technology. Not any more. For the status-conscious, a parabolic television antenna is what now piques the neighbours. It is a big white dish, generally between 1.5 and 1.8 metres across, on a tall tripod moored in concrete. Whether squatted to look like the shrubbery, or perched unblinking on the roof, it cannot be ignored. Possession of a satellite dish distinguishes someone as an "early adopter", the kind of person market research defines as the first to acquire anything newfangled. A fashionable arcane vocabulary accompanies it. One must always speak of the "backyard dish". The satellite at which it is pointed is the "bird". Quite soon one is casually dropping jargon like "footprints" (the ground area covered by satellite beams) and "TVROs" (Television Receive Only; dishes which can receive but not transmit signals).

In Britain, the number of owners is in the hundreds, not thousands. They are an exclusive bunch of electronics enthusiasts, media folk and rich businessmen, especially European expatriates wishing to watch television in their own language. For less than £4,000, including VAT and installation costs, they can receive up to 21 TV channels from Britain and abroad. A "working tool" is how television personality and programme archivist Bob Monkhouse regards his £3,000 dish, "an ugly bastard" condemned to one of the darker corners of his garden near Woburn. "When I come to argue it out with the taxman, any claim that it's purely for amusement will be met with the fact that I need to watch any accessible programme that will provide me with comedy material", he says. Forty years before he bought his dish, Arthur C. Clarke, the science fiction author of 2001, A Space Odyssey, was inventing its concept. The satellite communications industry is the product of his discovery that satellites travelling in synchronous orbit with the earth, 22,400 miles above the equator, will appear stationary and so be able to transmit to designated parts of the globe. But not until recently have individuals, at least in Britain, wrested the technology from governments and telecommunications giants. Historically, satellites have been crucial to the development of cable television. Satellite TV plucks pictures from the sky, cable sends them down a landline into the home. But cable programme-makers need satellites to relay signals, both locally and internationally, to the cable operators, who then transmit them to their subscribers. The American cable TV boom of the late 1970s began only when satellites were made

Satellite television is the latest craze among gadget-lovers. It may turn your back garden into Jodrell Bank, but how else do you watch Norwegian religion or Lassie in German?

MIRROVISION: Robert Maxwell's feature film service whose output ranges from Alan Bennett's A Private Function to Married A la Cartofole, What's Up Nurse and Drizzle.

SCREEN SPORT: From American ABC network. Sport is shown alongside less orthodox activities - roller derby, arm wrestling and blue marlin fishing. Today features rock climbing and stock car racing.

TVS: French entertainment channel with programmes from Europe and French-speaking Canada. Today showing an old Fernandel film and a variety show.

SKY CHANNEL: Owned by Rupert Murdoch. Offers general entertainment dominated by old American series like The Lucy Show and The Untouchables.

THE ARTS CHANNEL: W.H. Smith's culture vulture channel for arty-fishers (Sam-Sam), which today features modern sculpture and the playwright Judds Feiler.

FILMNET: Dutch feature film service. English films with Dutch subtitles. Tonight offers An Officer and A Gentleman, and Grass 2.

Children's Channel: Programmes for youngsters from 7am until 3pm. Owned by Thorn-EMI. Starts off the day with Ten To Ten.

MUSIC BOX: Also owned by Thorn-EMI. Shows 18 hours of pop videos, 15 every hour.

PREMIERE: Owned by Thorn-EMI and shows mostly feature films, including tonight's Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs, Children of The Corn and Great Expectations.

news in French or German every night. Indeed, many of the early British systems were bought by the RAF and Army for teaching recruits Russian. However, the best case for satellite TV is made by the live 24-hour Cable News Network, relayed to Europe from Atlanta by the mighty Ted Turner, an interloper both admired and mistrusted by European broadcasters. The BBC and ITV covered the recent shuttle disaster using his pictures. CNN, a "window on the USA", now constitutes the biggest sales pitch for the consumer satellite market. Of course, manufacturers and distributors of satellite TV equipment stand to benefit greatly from deregulation. Northampton-based Sat-Tel, Britain's largest manufacturer selling to the professional telecommunication industry, now makes a domestic dish costing £1,000. The leading distributor, Megastar, was simply "hanging in" until last May, as Graham Lawson, its managing director, cheerfully confesses. But he expects a £1 million turnover this year. The dishes he sells, made of aluminium or fibre-glass, come in kits like DIY furniture, together with a low-noise block converter for processing the satellite signals, and the receiver, a box placed next to the TV set. Suppliers will carry out installation for a fee which can be several hundred pounds, according to the degree of difficulty and distance travelled. A clear line of sight is necessary from the premises to the two European satellites available, Intelsat V and ECS F-1 (European Communications Satellite).

Megastar's four domestic systems range from £1,030 to the £2,850, which has a motor for pointing the dish towards the satellites and a computer tuning in each channel. Without the motor you must put on wellies and turn the dish by hand. But technology is praised - with more powerful direct broadcast satellites (DBS) due for launching, the dish may end up being little bigger than a dinner-plate sitting on top of the telly. Then, say experts, prices could tumble to £500. Although the importance of technology and retailing costs cannot be overlooked, the quality and quantity of the programmes will decide the future of satellite television. Sky, with its seven million viewers across Europe, is well placed for the battle looming between the programme-providers. But the specialist English-language channels, dependent on small cable subscriptions and/or limited advertising, face difficulties. Premiere, in fact, is already being sold off. The programme-makers are threatened, ironically, by the "open skies" philosophy implicit in satellite television. At present anyone with the equipment can pick up their programmes without actual payment. So they are almost certain to follow Sky's example and scramble the satellite signal. A dish owner would then have to spend up to £200 on a decoder. But even among the big guns there is uncertainty and frantic activity. ITV has announced a Super Channel to carry the best of ITV and BBC programmes, though the BBC may yet move separately. Sky's owners, News International and Virgin, a shareholder in Music Box, are part of a conglomerate with plans for a system in which anyone can bid to supply programmes. And next year Robert Maxwell, owner of Mirror Vision, hopes to launch a second channel from a new French DBS satellite.

With so much money on the table, satellite television looks a good bet to happen, as turf accountants will soon confirm. But many questions remain, the most vital being: will national television be drained of money to fund even cheaper cable shows? Or is it all just pie in the sky? Michael Watts



Wine and song but no women: Laurie Lee in his attic, strictly a work area

Confessions of a cider man

It is three years since Laurie Lee invited anyone to his attic hideaway in Chelsea, a place full of locked rooms containing rejected manuscripts and other men's mad wives. Or so he says. He also says he doesn't own a telephone, so when one suddenly bleeps as we artfully clanking glasses to toast the forthcoming BBC television film of his classic, As I Walked Out One Morning, I tactfully disregard it. Lee ignores it too. He gazes evasively through the window, the cracks of which are ineptly sealed with shrivelled brown sticky tape, and he enthuses about the view. "I watch Concorde go over, a beautiful sight, and Prince Andrew dipping his helicopter over the palace to wave to Ma'am, and the seagulls, a sign to batter down the hatches..." Lee, poet, essayist, OBE and author of one of the most lyrical autobiographies in the English language, Cider with Rosie, is a bit of an old rascal. The literary world tells tales of his partying for the hard-stuff; how he fell off the podium at a poetry-reading, how he smuggles drink into readings in ink bottles. He tells tales about himself, like the one about the day he was sitting outside the pub in his native Cotswold village, Slad, when a party of giggling schoolgirls asked: "Excuse me, sir, can you tell us where Laurie Lee is buried?" In the polite version he replies (and here you must imagine his Gloucestershire burr): "Laurie Lee is usually buried with his nose in a pint of bitter if you'd care to join me in the public bar". In the saucy version he replies: "Ooh ar, come up the wood, girls, and Laurie Lee will soon show you where he wants to be buried". You can forgive bawdiness from the man who wrote: "Such a morning it is when love/leaves through geranium windows/and calls with a cockerel's tongue..." And you can countenance a certain amount of intemperate rambling from the man who, at 19, left his mother's cottage to walk to London and then through Spain, from Vigo to Andalusia, playing a violin for money as he went. Not that the man will discuss either his poetry or the BBC film of that celebrated trek. "It's fairly true to my book", he concedes, "they shot it last year in Spain, the

I've depended on women as voluptuous refuges

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I don't even think of myself as a writer now

appears not to hear. When I inquire whether he's slightly deaf he replies: "My dear daughter Hesse, who gives me kisses in exchange for pound notes, describes me to people saying, 'he stumbles and he's a bit deaf but he's ever so young...' One never says one's dear, you know, as one never says one's an alcoholic. Incidentally, my GP recently asked me what I'd drunk that day and I replied 'two beers and a short' - which is alcoholic code, as all GPs know, for 15 beers and half a bottle of whisky. At this point the post arrives. Lee nips into the hall, wildly sitting open envelopes until, like a sniffer-dog pouncing on drugs, he finds a cheque. While I ask a feeble question about his work in progress he waves the cheque gleefully like a flag. "That's the question I always shy away from", he replies, topping up the glasses. "Furthermore, I don't even think of myself as a writer now. More a communicator and interpreter of something which I still think of as being magically unique, that is, in this world and this life which, in spite of shadows and occasional pain, has been a perpetual excitement and joy. I never intended to be a writer. I left the village school at 14. I just scribbled for my family and girlfriends. When I was in my 20s a rather grand girlfriend found my poems on the floor and persuaded Cyril Connolly to get them published. Bemoaning the fact that he writes very slowly, he suddenly lets slip that the sequel to his half-a-million bestseller, As I Walked Out, is nearing completion. "It's a book of defeat, pain and disaster. About a winter when the anti-Franco side were in retreat, Franco was winning and our side had no arms. I'm also writing my Deadbeat Confessions, but that's all I'm prepared to say. No one wants to hear an old poet rambling pompously on about his next book... And that's it. He invites me to peep at a heap of letters, lists, bills and poems in a room of unpeppable chaos, and steers me downstairs and out into the gloomy street, where love is definitely not calling with cockerel's tongue but where we spot the first handful of snowdrops thrusting up through the grime and

ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH YES OR NO

Table with 2 columns: Question and Answer (Yes/No). Questions include: Would you treat a child suffering from leukaemia? Would you retain Society's hard won control over poisons, diphtheria, TB and smallpox? Would you agree we must have medicines and vaccines which have been tested for safety? Would you agree that we need to alleviate and control, for example, cancer, arthritis, multiple sclerosis and heart disease? Would you like to see a cure for AIDS and Legionnaire's disease?

Animal experimentation has made an essential contribution to the control and eradication of serious diseases. Much more requires to be done - this work must continue.

THE RESEARCH DEFENCE SOCIETY Safeguard your future

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 878)

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a solution key at the bottom.

FASHION by Suzy Menkes

Shaping up for a spring clean



Clean is the message and shape is the story for spring. Simple clothes make their impact with sharp cut rather than fancy detail. The spring suit is back at centre stage and takes over from all those cunningly mismatched separates. The curvy all-woman suits have short light skirts and scornfully turn a shapely derriere to mannish looks, androgyny and over-size.

This tender tailoring gives us fashion on the curve. Although there is a hint of the sharp-angled 1960s, the new clothes are drawn with a compass rather than a set-square. Shoulders are still padded but bust, waist and hips are all rounded. The new silhouette comes much closer to the body line, with twin seams gathering in the folds of fabric to make jackets fit for spring.

King of the curves, and the alchemist of this fashion change, is Paris designer Azzedine Alaïa. He moulds corsets of wool jersey and stretch viscose to the female body. Those who dismiss his outline as extreme forget that the first statements about changing fashion are always dramatic.

Alaïa's new collection is based on an all-in-one garment which he calls, appropriately enough, "the body". The Tunisian-born designer, who stands waist-high to his favourite muse, Grace Jones,

once designed costumes for the Crazy Horse strip show. He has a cartoon-strip view of women and one that flouts the feminist fashion creed. But Alaïa has worked for 20 years as a couturier for private clients and his ready-to-wear clothes, made in artfully seamed soft fabrics that fit and cling, are more wearable than might first appear.

Alaïa has also acted as a catalyst for other designers who have now thrown off layers and shrouds and brought the body back into focus in their own way. French designers, who are always strong on tailoring, have been quick to develop the style. The young Parisian designer Myrene de Premonville is in the new mood, and so are young British names like John Rocha and Jasper Conran.

The curvy jacket and slim skirt are the linchpins of the new spring style. The skirt comes mostly in just one shape: tubular and on-the-knee. It is worn with flat pumps and crepe tights or high heels and glossy legs. Hemlines come both longer and shorter, but the skirts are always road-slim and need to be seen in proportion to the jacket (and your hip-size).

The newest skirt of all is the sarong, which has all the appropriate curviness and comes in light jersey and fine gaberdine, as well as the more traditional summer cottons. Flat materials, both matt and silky and especially wool

gaberdine, make the fabric story of the season. The jacket is the key purchase, buttoned high and always moulded with seaming from bust to waist and hips. There are some curvy jackets among the oversize in the chain stores, but this is mostly a look that is coming from the designers and will only later work through high streets and wardrobes at the lower prices.

The newest shape of jacket is the riding coat — a three-quarter-length jacket following the body to mid-thigh and

huttoned. A confetti sprinkling of buttons down the front is the only detail to break up the uncluttered line. Keeping it simple is also the message for hair and accessories which all need to be sharp and clean.

Under the jacket goes the simplest sweater, a ribbed polo neck or cut-away top (also redolent of the 1960s). The shapely jacket is often worn over nothing at all. For the suit has come back not just to the body-line, but in a way that makes it sexy, young and fun.

Centre: Azzedine Alaïa's dramatic S-line, cut to cling in shiny stretch viscose. Body-moulding bronze dress with polo collar, £172, wide and shaped tan leather belt, three-quarter length fitted cardigan coat with padded shoulders, £215. All by Azzedine Alaïa from Joseph Pour La Maison, Sloane Street, SW1. Glossy tights by Aristoc

Far left: Hourglass three-quarter fitted riding coat in herringbone silk with gilt buttons. By John Rocha £215 from Gallery 28, Brook Street, W1; Whistles, 12-14 St Christopher's Place, W1 and branches; The Changing Room, Tunbridge Wells, Kent; Chinstown Clothing Company, Dublin. Striped cotton sweater, £30, slim gaberdine skirt, £107, both by Edina Ronay, 141 Kings Road, SW3; Liberties, Regent Street, W1. Gilded twist earrings and brooch

Top right: Gently fitted double-breasted jacket, £165, and slim skirt, £72, by Nicole Farhi in rose pink wool gaberdine, also navy and jade. Soft white blouse, £59.95, by Joseph Jannard, all from Farwick's, New Bond Street

Right: Rajah jacket in canary yellow wool gaberdine, fitted thigh-length and collarless with slender skirt. Suit by Premonville at Dewarwin, £395, also in white or black from Whistles, 12-14 St Christopher's Place, W1 and branches. Zip-up matt black swimsuit, £65, by Katharine Hammett from 50 South Molton Street, W1 and 1245 Kings Road, SW3 from March; Corniche, Edinburgh; Review, Cheltenham; Square, Beth, Belt, Alaïa.

All jewellery from Cobra and Bellamy, 149 Sloana Street, SW1 Hair by Lawrence at John Freda Photographs by David Bailey

KISS OF THE BRIDAL WOMAN

© The romance of the bride is the theme of store displays this month. The young make-up ranges are also in the wedding tradition for they have borrowed grand old names, come up with new textures and shadowed it all with something blue. © The dressing-up look of winter beauty has freshened — but there is still a faint feel of decadence in the moody mauves, slate blues and poison pinks that make up the cosmetic colour schemes. © Miss Havisham is the bride who springs to mind for Way-in's dramatic new beauty range launched last week. A light touch of post-punk, a gloss of Sixties style, all on a base of super-Sloane, makes up this striking collection.



Heels as well as skirts are going up in the world. The slim-line silhouette and its short and sassy headline demand a change of pace for shoes. The shape of the heel can vary from a teetering stiletto to a lousie heel with less height but the same feminine curve. Cuban heels are sharply angled, ending on fine spindly points. If heels are low they are still pointed, but triangular, so low-heeled pumps are now low-heeled court shoes. As a half-way measure, the wedge heel is a strong story this season. The 1980s' wedges are not the chunky oversized soles of the 1970s, but more glamorous sandals with delicately cut-out sides and peep-toes. The Hollywood feel brings brighter metallic colours. Charles Jourdan stibrich bronze leather to a strong plastic wedge, and Russell and Bromley have a more lightweight look with cut-out shapes and a hint of glitter. Shoes echo the Chanel influence on spring suits. The elegant sling-back is a classic made incomparably by Chanel. The sling-back is also made by Marilyn Anselm for Hobbs. She has recreated this chic French style with a lightweight co-respondent sling-back in smooth white leather and a shiny toe-cap in red or navy blue. Pied a Terre have also followed suit with a squared-off toe which gives a city-smart look to a soft leather sling-back, shoe tied at the heel with a chic leather bow. Rebecca Tyrrel

Sling-it

A NEW DESIGN BY EDWIN BELCHAMBER EHRMAN TAPESTRY

Last year Edwin Belchamber designed a lovely tapestry for us inspired by the garden at Sissinghurst in Kent. It was such a success that he has now produced a pair for it. The Lily Pond and surrounding garden are in soft blues and greens with the wall and bench in tones of brown and beige. The picture is enclosed by a border of pale blue flowers on a bottle green background. Designed as a picture it would also make a charming cushion.



The design measures 14 1/2" x 14 1/2" and is worked in simple half-cross stitch. It is printed in the full ten colours: Grass green, bottle green, powderblue, olive, hazelnut, royalblue, fawn, French navy, a very deep green and beige. The canvas is 12 holes to the inch and the kit comes complete with all the required yarns from the Applon tapestry range, needles and instructions. All for £19.25 including postage and packing. Use FREEPOST — No stamp needed.

Ehrman, 21 (22) Vicarage Gate, London, W8 4AA, Partners II & R Ehrman. Please allow 28 days for delivery. Money back if kit returned unused within 14 days. To: EHRMAN, FREEPOST, LONDON, W8 4BR. Please send me tapestry kits at £19.25 each. I enclose cheque/P.O. made out to Ehrman for £..... (Total) Name Address TH 386

Is this the only kind of bird your children watch? If so, then you should give them a gift of a year's membership to The Young Ornithologists' Club. It's the junior section of the RSPB, and it will make them look at the birds and wildlife around them with fresh, eager eyes. Not square eyes. RSPB. For further information write to: The Young Ornithologists' Club, Sandy, Beds. MK79 2DL. Tel. Dares on 01767 60491.

THE TIMES DIARY

Party tricks

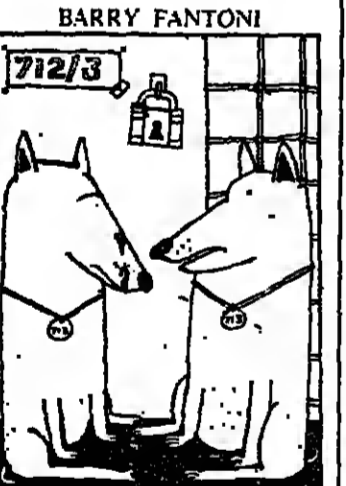
Eleventh-hour Tory protests brought Channel 4's Sunday night documentary My Britain - David Steel within a whisker of being pulled off the air.

Deadlock

One of the Worthing brothers who vowed to starve until the local council reversed its decision to close the town's Connaught Theatre was said yesterday to be near death.

But no shells

The day the petrol pumps ran with water will not soon be forgotten at the Hawes Landing Service Station in Edinburgh.



It's MPs trying to understand the new Animals (Scientific Procedures) Bill that I feel sorry for

Age no bar

I would take with a hefty block of rock salt the notion that Lord Halsband and the Law Society are at daggers drawn over rights of audience and legal aid fees.

Foreign parts

Scottish geography is not Denis Thatcher's strong suit. Not long ago, on a trip north of the border with his wife, he started his Scottish hosts by mistaking Aberdeen for Dundee.

Here's a tip

Guidance at last for diners at Just Around the Corner, that embarrassing new restaurant on the Finchley Road in London where payment is left to your discretion.

Why I could not fight on

Frederik van Zyl Slabbert explains his decision to resign as leader of South Africa's official opposition party

President Botha said at the recent opening of Parliament that South Africa had "outgrown the outdated concept of apartheid."

ism, compared to other situations where these problems exist. Apartheid is concrete, demonstrable and unique to South Africa.

As leader of the official opposition Progressive Federal Party in the South African parliament, I set myself two objectives: to persuade as many whites as possible that apartheid must go, and to negotiate with the government to bring that about.

Digby Anderson

May Thatcher stay outside

During the Westland saga, a journalist wrote that the country was awaiting with "bated breath" the outcome of the following day's Cabinet meeting.

by the same self-seeking that operates in the private sector. Neo-conservatives such as Glazer and Kristol show that the pervasiveness of policy decisions, the way they fail to benefit their apparently intended customer-beneficiaries but enrich their producers, is not just Jim Hacker's problem but one of politicized, bureaucratized decision-making.

Iain Carson looks East, not West, for a tie-up that makes sense BL's best bet for prosperity

Six years after it decided to forget its principles and bail out British Leyland, Mrs Thatcher's government is now haunted by the very success of that policy.



Land Rover's production line. The firm could again be a winner if Paul Channon steers it in the right direction

Another factor is the fundamental change in car production. Henry Ford's assembly lines were the epitome of contemporary manufacturing techniques - mass production of a few models by an extreme division of labour.

This, it was thought, would favour the international giants making similar cars worldwide. That forecast has turned out to be false. The variety of models seen on any road in the mid-1980s, even in down-at-heel Britain, shows that motorists want more from a car than basic - different permutations of comfort, style and speed.

moreover... Miles Kingston

Bonhomie is the name

There is a new offshoot of Friends of the Earth called The Arts for the Earth (Tate) which aims to raise funds for ecological and artistic events.

There is a new offshoot of Friends of the Earth called The Arts for the Earth (Tate) which aims to raise funds for ecological and artistic events.

The image sunk with the Lermontov

Three weeks ago, Western television viewers watched in horror the American space shuttle Challenger explode with the loss of its crew of seven.

officials have made repeated calls for the country's media to show more openness in reporting bad news. That these calls had official endorsement was evident from clauses in the new edition of the Communist Party programme.

improving standards of reporting. Frank (and selective) reporting of problems allows a new leadership to expose in detail some of its predecessor and so ease out figures associated with it.

earthquakes. All went unreported, lest they detract from Soviet prestige. The sinking of the Mikhail Lermontov presents the Soviet authorities with a difficult problem. The ship was the pride of the Soviet cruise fleet.

Mary Dejevsky



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 17: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips...

was received by the Principal Officer (Mrs Victoria Taylor). Her Royal Highness later attended the Brownie/Guide Tea Challenge Party...

Royal Air Force, for the United States of America. His Royal Highness was received upon arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Oxfordshire...

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 17: The Prince of Wales left Royal Air Force Brize Norton this morning...

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Lajos Lederer will be held today at the Press Club, Shoe Lane, EC4, at noon.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S. Beutnick-Budd and Miss C. Colson. The engagement is announced between Stephen, elder son of Mr and Mrs Edward C. Beutnick-Budd...

Mr G. Devereux and Miss S.P. Skimmer. The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Mr and Mrs E. Devereux...

Mr J.A. Lofis and Miss H. Nowak. The engagement is announced between Tooy, son of Mr and Mrs R.J. Lofis...



Museum buys earliest City map copperplate

The Museum of London has acquired the earliest (1560) surviving engraved copperplate for a map of the City of London...



University news

Aberdeen Dr Ian Hyslop Muir, of the Science and Engineering Research Council laboratory at Daresbury...

Appointments

Professor Wilfred Saunders, Professor Teresa Rempfer and Dr Henry Rosemary to be members of the Advisory Council on Public Records.

The following to be deputy lieutenants for the Royal County of Berkshire...

Mr Keith Alexander, head of music and arts, for BBC Scotland, and Mr Ian Halliwell, chairman of Platform Music Societies...

Birthdays today

Mr H.L. Beales, 97; Major Sir Harold Bibby, 97; Miss Phyllis Calvert, 71; Miss Jean E. Cooke, 59; Miss Sinead Cusack, 38...

Giggleswick School

The first Douglas Glover memorial lecture at Giggleswick School will be given by Mr Peter Walker, MP, Secretary of State for Energy...

Luncheon

English-Speaking Union Mr Roy Jenkins, MP, was the guest speaker at the English-Speaking Union literary luncheon...

Fulbright Commission

The Fulbright Commission, the bi-national United States-United Kingdom Educational Commission, has announced the following new commission...

Army commissions

The following have been granted short-service limited commissions in the regiments, corps, schools, having successfully completed course No 17 at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst...

OBITUARY

MR RAINSFORD MOWLEM

Leading wartime plastic surgeon

Mr Rainsford Mowlem, FRCS, for many years one of Britain's leading plastic surgeons, died at his home in Southern Spain on February 6. He was 83.

Mowlem was in that line of eminent plastic surgeons from New Zealand - which included Sir Harold Gillies, and his pupil, Sir Archibald McIndoe - who made such a fundamental contribution to the treatment of war wounds.

MAJOR SIR WILLIAM PENNINGTON-RAMSDEN

Major Sir William Pennington-Ramsden, BT, who died on January 13, will be remembered by steeplechasing enthusiasts as Bobby Pennington, the owner of Bovril, the one-eyed horse which, in spite of serious illness, he rode into second place behind Sprig in the 1927 Grand National.

He succeeded his father as seventh Baronet in 1958, his elder brother having been killed by guerrillas in Malaya. In 1927 he married Veronica Morley, by whom he had three daughters. He is succeeded by a cousin, Caryl Ramsden CMG, CVO.

MR CALVIN HOFFMAN

Mr Calvin Hoffman, who has died at his home in Sarasota, Florida, at the age of 80, was a tireless proponent of the fanciful but highly entertaining theory that the works of Shakespeare were in fact written by Marlowe.

In his book 'The Man Who Was Shakespeare' which was published in 1955, he argued that Marlowe's murder had been simulated, an unknown sailor having been killed in his place while the playwright, whom the Privy Council wanted to question about some subversive pamphlets, jumped bail and made good his escape to Italy.

From there for the next twenty years, Hoffman maintained he sent back to England a steady stream of those fascinating manuscripts commonly misattributed to Shakespeare. These were handed by his patron, Thomas Walsingham, who, to save his homosexual friend from trial for blasphemy and treason had originally organised the sailor's murder.

MR LAZARE KAPLAN

Lazare Kaplan, who died on February 12 at the age of 102, was the founder of the New York diamond firm bearing his name, and the man who cut the 726-carat Jonker diamond.

Kaplan, who became a legendary figure in world diamond centres, undertook the difficult and highly risky task of cutting the huge Jonker diamond, which had been found on a farm near Pretoria, South Africa.

MR EMANOEL LEE

Mr Emanuel Lee, FRCS, Chairman of the Oxford Regional Medical Advisory Committee, died on January 25, aged 52. He made valuable contributions to his profession as surgeon, research worker and teacher; he also had several outside interests.

He was a gifted artist in oils or in watercolours; exhibitions of his work were shown in Oxford and elsewhere, and one of his portraits hangs in St Cross College, of which college he was a Fellow. He gave expert assistance to the Oxford Museum of Modern Art as a member of council and was an accomplished historian, with special knowledge of the Boer War.

Church news

The Dean of Winchester, the Very Rev Michael Standfield, is to retire on October 1. He has been dean since 1969. Appointments: The Rev J. Barrett, non-stipendiary vicar of St Andrew's, Winchester...

Value of the money spider

Scientists are considering way of culturing the money spider as a check on the aphid, which is a major pest in cereals and other crops. Money spiders (Linyphiidae) already have a remarkable ability to aid the farmer by arduously themselves into fields on anti-cyclonic summer and autumn days in a phenomenon known as "ballooning".

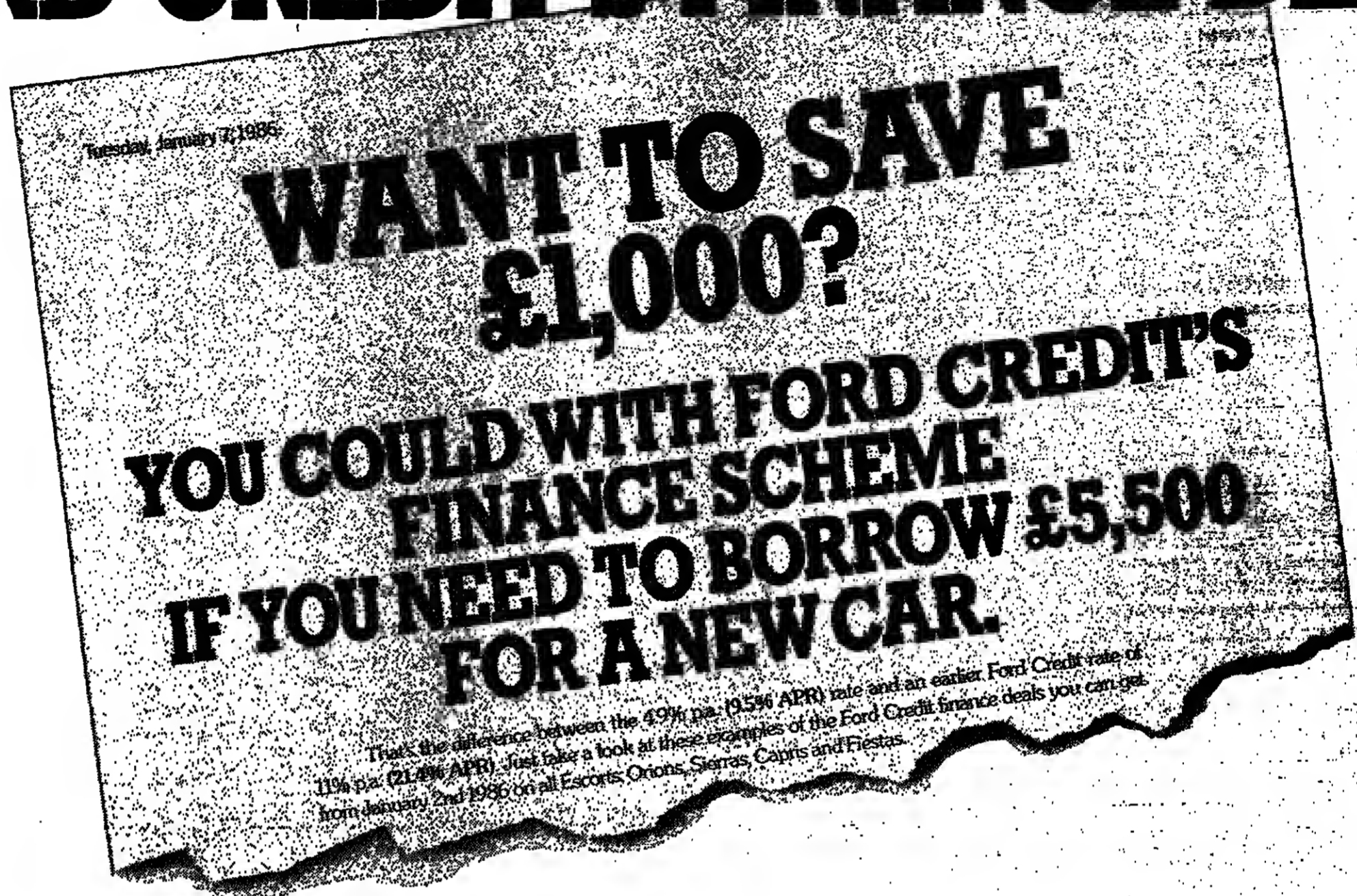
Latest wills

Baroness Sheffield, of Chelsea, wife of the former Ambassador to Washington and daughter of Mr Dwight Davis, the donor of the Davis Cup, left estate in England and Wales valued at £1,081,932 net.

CHRISTIE'S WEEK IN VIEW

A selection from our 19 sales in London this week. Chinese Ceramics, Jades and Snuff-Bottles: Wednesday 19 February at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m., King Street: An attractive sale comprising a variety of decorative wares from late Archaic to the Qing Dynasty.

IN JANUARY MANY PEOPLE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE £1,000 BY TAKING FORD CREDIT'S FINANCE DEAL.



With rising interest rates we could not continue this offer into February. But you can still have low rate finance of 5.9% p.a. (11.4% APR) on any Fiesta, Capri or Sierra registered between February 7th and February 28th, 1986.

Just take a look at these examples of Ford Credit Finance deals.

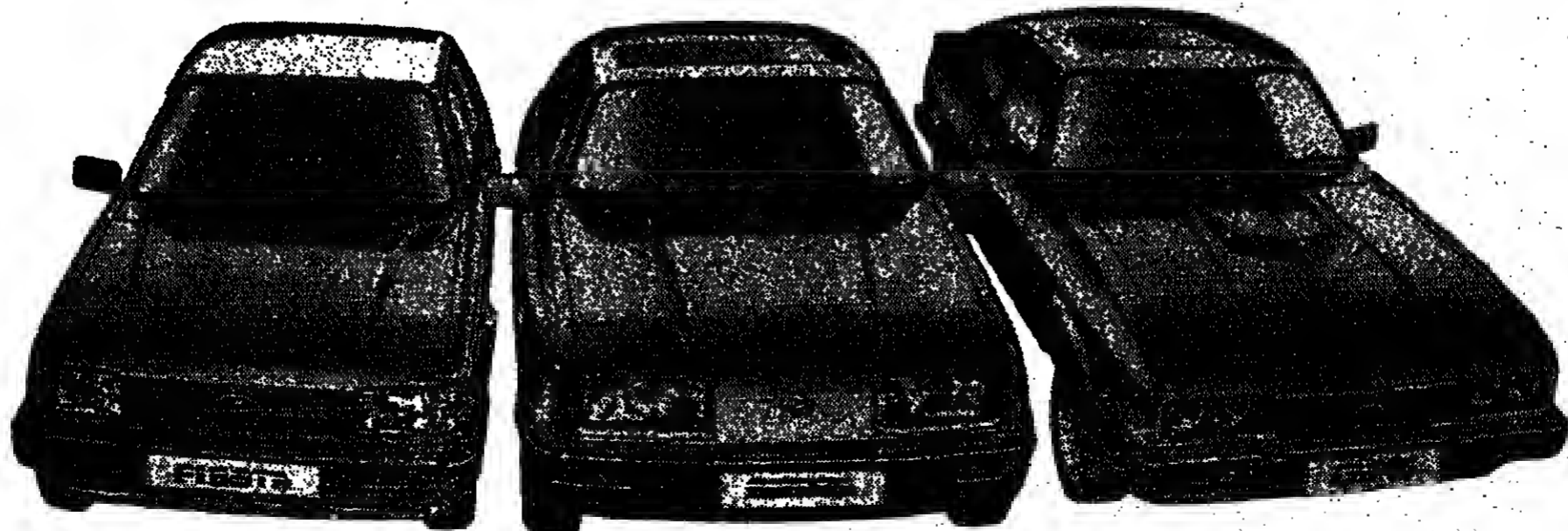
MODEL	FIESTA POPULAR 950	SIERRA 1.8 LASER	CAPRI 2.0 LASER
APR	11.4%	11.4%	11.4%
Cash Price*	4201.08	7253.38	7328.44
Initial Payment (minimum 20%)	840.22	1450.68	1465.69
Amount of Credit	3360.86	5802.70	5862.75
36 Monthly Instalments of	109.88	189.72	191.68
Charge for Credit	594.82	1027.22	1037.73
Total Credit Price	4795.90	8280.60	8366.17

*Maximum retail price as at February 7th 1986 excluding delivery, number plates and road fund licence.

Don't forget that the examples we give in the table are based on the maximum retail price of the car.

If you talk to your Ford dealer you could get an even better deal and still use the 5.9% p.a. (11.4% APR) rate.

What's more, if you want to finance your purchase over just two years you can get finance at just 4.9% p.a. (9.5% APR) on all Fiestas, Sierras and Capris.



The above finance plan is subject to credit approval and applies to Fiesta (excl. van derivatives), Sierra and Capri vehicles registered between February 7th and February 28th in England, Scotland and Wales and which are subject to Conditional Sale Agreements arranged by participating Ford dealers and underwritten by Ford Motor Credit Company Limited, Regent House, 1 Hubert Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4QL. Applicants must be over 18 years of age and credit worthy. Please note: various factory fitted options are available for eligible vehicles at extra cost. Figures are correct at time of going to press.



BASE LENDING RATES

£ 6000 on 1150

PLEASE TRY TO GET DEAL

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1220.7 (+1.9)

FT-SE 100
1477.9 (+4.4)

USM (Datastream)
114.33 (+0.37)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.4207 (+0.003)

W German mark
3.3213

Trade-weighted
73.6 (u/c)

Rodamco offer out

Rodamco Property, the Dutch company bidding £175 million for Haslemere Estates, sent out its offer document last night. It argues that Haslemere has underperformed the rest of the property sector and that Rodamco's offer of 600p per share is a fair price, a sentiment with which the market seems to agree.

CTG chief

Lord Pennock is to be the next chairman of the Channel Tunnel Group. He takes up the appointment next month.



Posgate fight to carry on

Mr Ian Posgate (above) is to appeal against last week's decision by the Council of Lloyd's not to readmit him to the market because he was not a "fit and proper" person to underwrite. His six-month suspension, imposed for receiving a Pissarro painting as an inducement to place business, ended on January 8.

Beazer offer

Beazer has received sufficient acceptances under its offer for French Kier to acquire compulsorily any outstanding French Kier shares.

Hunter buys

Hunter has agreed to acquire wood and board distributors Christie and Vesey for £1.6 million in cash.

71.4% accept

Morgan Crucible has acceptances for 71.4 per cent of First Castle Electronics shares and its offer has been declared unconditional.

Oil options

The New York Mercantile Exchange expects to trade options on its crude oil futures contract this year. Mr Michel Marks, chairman of the exchange, said yesterday.

Coffee switch

Soaring coffee prices have forced the International Coffee Organization to suspend coffee export quotas. With prices at least 40 cents above the maximum of 140 cents a pound set by the International Coffee Agreement, the ICO announced yesterday that members would be allowed to export as much as they wanted.

UB offers £2.5bn for Imps as Hanson raises bid

The battle for Imperial Group took off yesterday with Hanson Trust raising its bid to £2.28 billion and United Biscuits, whose merger with Imperial was referred last week to the Monopolies Commission, stealing the initiative from Imperial and topping the Hanson offer with a record breaking £2.5 billion bid.



Sir Hector Laing keen to compete with the Americans

Imperial put out a holding statement to its shareholders, but last night it was locked in meetings with United Biscuits and is expected to recommend the UB offer. Both companies have emphasized throughout their merger campaign the industrial logic of their proposals and the lack of industrial logic of the Hanson offer. Sir Hector Laing, chairman of UB, is particularly keen to create a British food group capable of competing with the American giants in the world market to provide food for the Third World.

United Biscuits has promised the Office of Fair Trading that it will sell off Golden Wonder, Imperial's snacks, crisps and nuts business, in order to avoid a competition reference. UB and Imperial together have over 40 per cent of the British snacks market, which triggered the reference to the Monopolies Commission. UB's snacks division, KP Foods, is larger than Golden Wonder, which had a turnover in 1984 of £117.2 million and pretax profits of £8.1 million.

Hanson has offered for each Imperial share one of its shares plus 15p cash worth 30p per share at Hanson's closing price yesterday of 148p, down 3p. Alternatively, it has offered one Hanson and 15p of 10 per cent convertible stock or one Hanson and 15p of 12 per cent loan notes. The full cash alternative is worth 293p a share. Both Hanson and UB are allowing Imperial shareholders to keep Imperial's recommended final dividend of 6.6p.

Holmes à Court raises bid for BHP to £1.71 billion

Mr Robert Holmes à Court yesterday sent out the clearest signal yet that his move on the Broken Hill Proprietary Company (BHP) is not, as many commentators have suggested, a share-boosting manoeuvre, but a genuine attempt to take over Australia's biggest corporate enterprise.

Indonesia 'may raise oil output'

Indonesia yesterday fell into step with several of its partners in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and said it might raise oil production and adopt a "flexible" pricing structure to meet revenue targets.

Unveiling his latest bid, worth up to Aus\$3.5 billion (£1.71 billion) in Melbourne yesterday, Mr Holmes à Court, head of the Bell Group, said it retained many of the features of the Bell offer made on February 1. He declined to give a commitment that if he gained control of "the big Australian" he would not break it up.

Dr Subroto, the country's mines and energy minister, told the parliament in Jakarta that Indonesia would produce oil at the level necessary to secure planned export income, but would stay in line with Opec policies.



Dr Subroto: fighting for a "fair" market share

NatWest to reorganize its services

National Westminster, the clearing bank with the largest branch network, yesterday announced plans for an important reorganization of its customer services designed to provide a more competitive service to corporate and personal clients.

Laing and Bechtel launch oil venture

The British subsidiary of the American Bechtel group and the construction firm John Laing have established a new joint company which could lead to an increase in the use of American technology in British offshore oil and gas engineering projects.

Campari in £1.8m deal

Mr Ake Nordin, a Swedish businessman, yesterday announced a £1.8 million deal to buy large family shareholdings in Campari, the sports equipment firm.

Shop sales fall after Christmas record

After the record Christmas Britain's shops saw trade fall away last month as the New Year sales period was followed by slack trading and the start of the arctic weather. But clothing sales are flourishing, according to new figures released today by the Confederation of British Industry.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	12½%
Adian & Company	12½%
BCCI	12½%
Citibank	12½%
Citibank Savings	12½%
Consolidated Crd	12½%
Continental Trust	12½%
Co-operative Bank	12½%
C. Hoare & Co	12½%
Lloyds Bank	12½%
Nat Westminster	12½%
Royal Bank of Scotland	12½%
TSB	12½%
TSB	12½%
Citibank NA	12½%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet Britain's £70 billion North Sea legacy

It is a sign that the market is in high ground when the law of equal and opposite reasoning comes into operation. The best current example is the impact of oil prices on the United Kingdom. When North Sea oil fetched more than \$30 a barrel, Britain exulted in its petro-dollar status. North Sea induced economic activity raised the growth level; the balance of payments was in handsome surplus; oil tax revenue flowed into the Exchequer.

While the consequences of an oil-inflated pound were a steeper recession and higher unemployment than might otherwise have occurred in the early 1980s, the other side of the coin looks very pleasing. Britain accumulated huge assets overseas, which now total some £70 billion. These assets are easily capable of yielding an income of \$5 billion, and maybe as much as £7 billion a year. The legacy of oil at \$30 a barrel is one of the highest ratios of external assets to gross national product of any leading industrial country.

In 1985, Britain's net return on the oil trading account was £8.2 billion. The income from external assets built up during the oil-rich years is thus already not far short of the surplus from actually trading in oil last year. It may, in fact, very soon exceed it since the fall in oil prices will erode the £3 billion despatched abroad to foreign companies with investments in the North Sea.

The good news does not stop there. As Dr David Lomax, group economic adviser to National Westminster Bank, puts it: "The effect of the fall in the oil price has pushed sterling to a level where British products should be much more competitive as against European and worldwide competition. The movement in the sterling exchange rate is all the Confederation of British Industry could have wished for."

Options open

The current bout of takeover fever is wonderful business for the Stock Exchange's traded options market, never mind that it is speculative rather than answering those more worthy aims normally claimed for options and futures.

Yesterday, the exchange announced that Blue Circle will join the list from Thursday. It will be the 36th company option traded, along with three gift-edged stocks and the contract on the FT-SE 100 share index.

Changes at Great Portland

Mr Basil Samuel's switch from chairman of Great Portland Estates to its life president is seen as the forerunner of changes in the property company's operation.

All you need to start your own Airline

Highland Express

Highland Express plc offer for subscription of up to 5,000,000 ordinary shares of 10p each at 60p per share.

By Judith Huntley Commercial Property Correspondent

Mr Basil Samuel's switch from chairman of Great Portland Estates to its life president is seen as the forerunner of changes in the property company's operation.

The market is looking to Mr Richard Peskin, the new managing director and chairman, to set a faster pace.

Great Portland is seen as a prime takeover candidate in the sector although Mr Samuel's stake - 6.2 per cent of beneficial holdings and 3 per cent of non-beneficial shares - makes such a move unlikely. There are no indications that the former chairman intends to sell.

Great Portland has gradually been changing its portfolio to give a more attractive asset base. It has a high exposure to the City of London office market and recently let its development at 80 Bishopsgate to a foreign bank at a healthy rent.

It has been selling part of its Great Portland Street portfolio but if changes in planning law come through, it could benefit by transferring industrial property into offices.

led by Randolph Fields who co-founded Virgin Atlantic Airways.

BES tax relief may be available.

Travel privileges for certain foreign investors.

The subscription list will close at anytime on or before 5.00 pm, March 2nd, 1986.

If you would like a copy of the Prospectus, on the basis of which any application of shares is made, please return the coupon below or phone Parsons & Co. Ltd 041 332 8791

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WALL STREET

New York (AP-D) Traders and analysts said a powerful rally in the bond market helped the stock market overcome repeated small pull-backs...

Both markets received a boost at the opening of trading, participants said, on news that producer prices last month fell a greater-than-expected 0.7 per cent.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed was 1664.45 up 19.38. There were 1158 issues advancing, 495 declining and 383 unchanged.

Volume totaled 155,590,000 shares compared with 136,499,000 shares yesterday. The New York Stock Exchange composite index was 126.45, up 1.24.

Table with columns for various stocks (AMR, ASA, Allied Signal, etc.) and their prices/changes. Includes sub-sections for 'STOCKS', 'BONDS', and 'COMMODITIES'.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES. Table showing exchange rates for various currencies including the pound sterling, dollar, and others.

The pound moved ahead against the dollar, reaching \$1.4188 in quiet trading against 1.4145 overnight. Sterling's value against the mark also advanced, helping the trade weighted index back up slightly.

OTHER STERLING RATES. Table listing rates for various international locations like Argentina, Brazil, Canada, etc.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table showing interest rates for various money market instruments like Treasury bills, discount rates, and Euro money deposits.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table listing prices and changes for various financial futures contracts such as three-month sterling, gold, and oil.

CANADIAN PRICES

Table listing prices for various Canadian commodities and stocks, including wheat, oil, and metals.

COMMODITIES

Table showing prices for various commodities including sugar, cocoa, coffee, and other agricultural products.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Large table listing numerous investment trusts with columns for name, price, and change. Includes various equity, bond, and specialty trusts.

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

Table showing prices for various grain futures contracts like wheat, barley, and oats.

LONDON MEAT FUTURES

Table showing prices for various meat futures contracts including beef, pork, and lamb.

LONDON POTATO FUTURES

Table showing prices for various potato futures contracts.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table listing prices for various financial trusts, similar to the main Investment Trusts section.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Extremely large table providing detailed information for various unit trusts, including names, managers, and performance metrics.

COMMODITIES REVIEW

I TC delays put a spanner in the Newco works

It is now so long since the dynamic duo of Mr Ralph Kestevenbaum, managing director of Gerald Metals, and Mr Peter Graham, senior deputy chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, tumbled down the chimney with their Christmas present of a solution to the tin crisis that their offering might better be called "Oldco".

APPOINTMENTS



Mark Cliffe: chief economist at ANZ

New chief for bank subsidiary

Bank of America: Mr Gerald Deberry has been made managing director of the London-based merchant banking subsidiary, Bank of America International Limited (BAIL). John Lewis Partnership: Mr David Young is to become the partnership's deputy finance director on June 30.

More breweries face threat of closure

Overcapacity among Britain's brewers could mean further closures on top of the 14 breweries which have been shut down since 1980. Some City estimates suggest that more than a quarter of the industry's capacity is unused at a time when beer production is languishing with not much prospect of improvement in the immediate future.

Micro memory prices plunge

The days of the empty personal computer are numbered. In recent months the cost of adding to the innards of microcomputers has plummeted, making it much easier for users to make more of their business systems.

Duty of directors who prefer their own bid

In re a Company No 008699 of 1985. Before Mr Justice Hoffmann [Judgment given February 13]. Mr Justice Hoffmann dismissed a motion to strike out a petition in which the petitioners alleged that the directors had acted in a manner prejudicial to their interests by favouring a lower bid for the company's shares from a company promoted by the directors in preference to a higher bid from a trade competitor.

Prospects good for N Sea oil

World oil price uncertainty will have only a marginal effect on the pace of future North Sea oil developments, according to Gaffney Cline, the international energy adviser.

Eurobond dealers fear Bill

Concern is growing that the Eurobond market will be driven out of London by the Financial Services Bill. Dealers are worried that the detailed regulatory clauses of the Bill are unsuited to the fast-moving and international nature of the bond market.

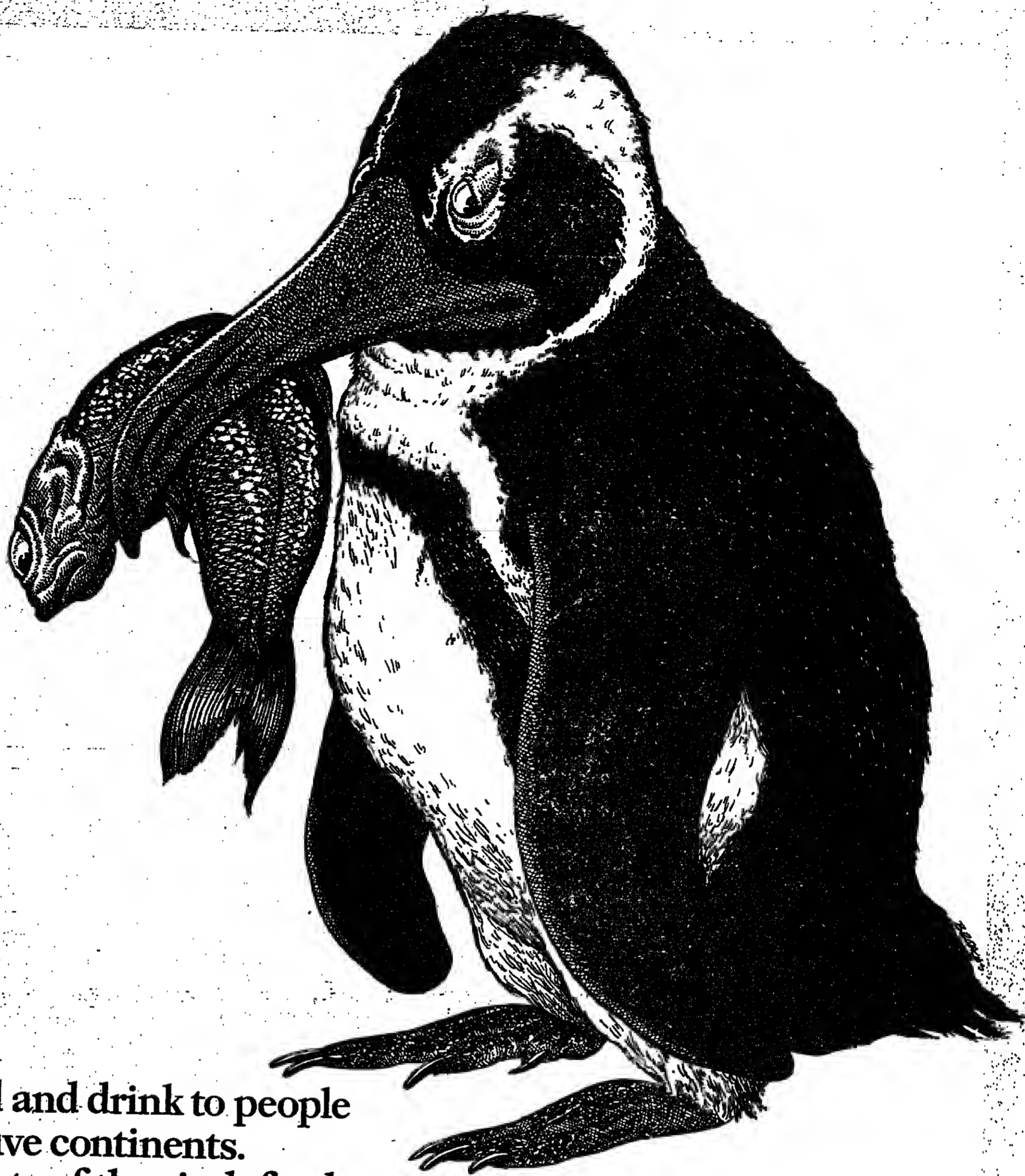
Unfair dismissal claim over retiring age

Swaine v Health and Safety Executive. Before Mr Justice Popplewell. Mr W Sirs and Miss A P Vale [Judgment given February 13]. A civil servant aged 63 at the date of his dismissal was held to be entitled to bring a complaint of unfair dismissal on the ground that a purported reduction in the normal retiring age from 65 to a band of between 62 and 63 was insufficiently definite to constitute a normal retiring age, so that the statutory alternative of 65 applied.

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Report February 18
y of director
who prefer
their own bid



We're food and drink to people of five continents. Inhabitants of the sixth fend for themselves.

Primitive though they are, most of the population of Antarctica know exactly where their last meal came from.

Which is something that can't be said of the people of the more advanced countries of the world.

In the States they think Baskin-Robbins, one of the world's biggest ice-cream chains, is as American as Apple Pie. Which is hardly surprising as it's run entirely by Americans.

But it's owned by Allied-Lyons. A British company.

Clogs, windmills, tulips, advocaat, what could be more Dutch?

The advocaat. Warninks, Holland's biggest producer of advocaat is British owned and it's part of Allied-Lyons.

All over the world people have got into the habit of drinking sherry before, during or after a meal. Hardly the thing to do, eh what?

But we don't mind. The chances are they're drinking Harveys, the world's biggest selling sherry, once again from Allied-Lyons.

It's much the same with port.

In over 50 countries they don't know, or care, which way to pass the port. But they do know which port to pass. It's Cockburns.

We could go on.

Allied-Lyons have over 200 brands, many of which are household names in countries the world over. But we're not just sitting back counting the profits, considerable though they are.

This financial year alone, we plan to invest a massive £190 million in the business and in 1985 we launched well over 100 new products worldwide.

Last year we made record pre-tax profits of £219 million and achieved £945 million worth of business overseas, without any help from our flippered friends down there in Antarctica.

Allied-Lyons
GOING ON GROWING

Dismissal
retiring

ent is
on of
aged
effort
mili-
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to.
news
engine
other
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ision.
pos-
cities
del
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said
par-

THE TIMES

Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Year gain or loss. Lists various companies like Bilton, Ciba, Diploma, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Week Total.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table with columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Div, Yld, PE. Lists various funds like 82% Treas, 85% Treas, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Div, Yld, PE. Lists various funds like 100% Div, 100% Div, etc.

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Late rally

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Feb. 10. Dealings End Feb. 21. Contango Day Feb. 24. Settlement Day, March 3 & Forward Bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div, Yld, PE. Lists companies like 1985 High Low, 1986 High Low.

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Remuneration will be £20,000 - £25,000, depending on age, qualifications and experience.

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Opportunity for young Solicitor or Barrister aged 26-28 years to be sole legal adviser to well-known public company. The work will include general commercial law (contracts, intellectual property, employment law, franchising and company law) as well as some company secretarial work. It is essential that candidates are commercially-minded and enjoy working in a fast-moving environment. The position reports to the Board. Attractive salary + company car. Please send personal details to Chambers & Partners, 74 Long Lane EC1R or telephone us on 01-606 9371.

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Corporation seeks Attorney with 2-5 years experience with a major law firm or corporation for its Legal Department in London. The candidate must be admitted to practice in the U.S. and have a background in general corporate and commercial law, securities law, and mergers/acquisitions. Excellent salary and benefits. Reply to: BOB, Esq., The Times, PO Box 484, London E1.

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Are looking for a Solicitor with experience of Trusts, Tax, Family Financial Planning & Litigation to assist a senior partner with a view to early partnership if mutually suitable. Please write to: Mr. P. E. D. Currey, 21, Southampton Gate, London SW1E 6LS.

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Required by

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سكوا من الاصل

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND FUNERALS... BIRTHS: On February 17th, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith...

DEATHS: On February 15th, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 78 years...

DEATHS: On February 14th, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 82 years...

DEATHS: On February 13th, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 75 years...

DEATHS: On February 12th, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 80 years...

DEATHS: On February 11th, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 77 years...

DEATHS: On February 10th, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 81 years...

DEATHS: On February 9th, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 79 years...

DEATHS: On February 8th, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 83 years...

DEATHS: On February 7th, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 76 years...

DEATHS: On February 6th, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 84 years...

DEATHS: On February 5th, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 78 years...

DEATHS: On February 4th, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 80 years...

DEATHS: On February 3rd, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 82 years...

DEATHS: On February 2nd, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 77 years...

DEATHS: On February 1st, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 81 years...

DEATHS: On January 31st, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 79 years...

DEATHS: On January 30th, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 83 years...

DEATHS: On January 29th, 1986, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, aged 76 years...

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ANNOUNCEMENTS: I will be staying at the... I am pleased to announce...

SERVICES: A new service has been... I am offering my services...

LEGAL SERVICES: I am a solicitor... I provide legal advice...

WANTED: I am looking for... I want to find...

FOR SALE: I have for sale... I am selling...

RESISTA CARPETS: I have a range of... I sell carpets...

WANTED: I am looking for... I want to find...

FOR SALE: I have for sale... I am selling...

RESISTA CARPETS: I have a range of... I sell carpets...

WANTED: I am looking for... I want to find...

FLATSHARE

SW2: I have a room in a flat... I am looking for...

SW2: I have a room in a flat... I am looking for...

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SW2: I have a room in a flat... I am looking for...

Rentals

FULHAM ROAD, SW6: I have a flat for rent... I am looking for...

BRITTON POOLE & BURNS: I have a flat for rent... I am looking for...

AROUND TOWN: I have a flat for rent... I am looking for...

PARSONS GREEN: I have a flat for rent... I am looking for...

KNIGHTSBRIDGE: I have a flat for rent... I am looking for...

VERBIE/MERIBEL: I have a flat for rent... I am looking for...

SKI WHIZZ: I have a flat for rent... I am looking for...

SKI/SKI/SKI: I have a flat for rent... I am looking for...

SKI/SKI/SKI: I have a flat for rent... I am looking for...

SKI/SKI/SKI: I have a flat for rent... I am looking for...

ALDERNEY STREET

ALDERNEY STREET: I have a flat for rent... I am looking for...

ALDERNEY STREET: I have a flat for rent... I am looking for...

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 Cereflex AM. 6.50 Breakfast Time with Elaine Scott and Mike Smith...

TV-AM

6.15 Good Morning Britain, presented by Nick Owen and Anneka Rice.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines. 9.30 For Schools: memory...



Louise Brooks profiled in Arena. BBC 2, 9.55pm.

BBC 2

8.55 Open University: Motion Newton's Law. Ends at 9.20.

CHANNEL 4

2.30 Film: Seven Keys* (1992) starring Alan Dobie and Janette Carson...

Radio 4

6.55 Shopping 6.00 News Briefing. 7.00 News.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Morning Concert by J.C. Bach...

Radio 2

News on the hour. Headlines 5.30am, 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

Radio 1

News on the half-hour from 6.30am until 9.30pm and at 12.00.

12.00 Button Moon. Puppet adventures of the Spoon family... 1.00 News at One with Leonard... 2.00 The Goodies Kitchen...

BBC 2

9.20 Daytime on Two: For moderately mentally handicapped young adults... 11.17 Drawing and painting...

CHANNEL 4

3.35 Paul Tomkowiak - Street Railway Switchman. Canadian made short profiling one of the unsung heroes...

Radio 4

6.55 Shopping 6.00 News Briefing. 7.00 News. 7.25 News. 7.55 Weather...

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Morning Concert by J.C. Bach...

Radio 2

News on the hour. Headlines 5.30am, 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

Radio 1

News on the half-hour from 6.30am until 9.30pm and at 12.00.

ENTERTAINMENTS. A large classified section containing various advertisements for theaters, cinemas, and entertainment services.

Dawn-to-dusk litany for unknowns left behind



Dr David Owen



Sir John Mills



Joanna Lumley



Peter Bowles



Edward Fox



Twiggy



Timothy West



Jeremy Irons

By Patricia Clough
On and on it went, from freezing dawn to icy dusk, the interminable litany of names, lifted by the bitter wind across the grey Thames to the grey city beyond.

For each name drama students strewed a red carnation on gravel floor of the twisted stone circle on the South Bank in front of the National Theatre which, to the delight of its sculptor, John Maiznie, was being used for the first time.

Unknown names of unknown Soviet Jews, spoke by British actors, writers, musicians, journalists, politicians and bishops in the hope that the very speaking might help

to bring about their release from the country they long to leave. Each name drama students strewed a red carnation on gravel floor of the twisted stone circle on the South Bank in front of the National Theatre which, to the delight of its sculptor, John Maiznie, was being used for the first time.

Last week Anatoly Shecharansky, the most famous of the unknowns, was released amid massive publicity after many years of hell. These people, said Tom Stoppard, the Czech-born playwright who organized the roll-call, are the unknowns without personal champions, the ones who were left behind.

And by the time the roll-call ended at dusk after ten and a half hours only about 9,000 names had been spoken - not even half of the 25,000 who have had the courage to apply for exit visas. These in turn are only a tiny fraction of the 380,000 who taken the initial step of asking the Israeli Government, through relatives, for an invitation to go and live there.

Only a handful of passers-by came to listen as wind-chill plunged the temperature to minus 21 degrees and a dusting of snow fell over the scene. But Mr Stoppard, bundled up against the cold in two coats, a sweater and a scarf, was not worried.

For there were TV cameras and press photographers drawn, as he knew they would be, by the appearance, one after another, of 200 well-known personalities, most of them non-Jews, including Felicity Kendall (who began

Letter from Washington
The gossips catch up with Reagan

Black sheep in the White House are uncomfortably conspicuous. The hapless Carvers had a flock large enough to keep the gossip columnists busy for four rollicking years. Billy the brother, with his Libyan connections; Gloria, the motorbiking sister whose son languished in a Californian jail; son Chip, with his crumbling, irresistible Miz Lillian. The Regans, by contrast, seemed sedately proper, sharing with their predecessors the habit of holding hands in public. But Washington gossip columnists, being what they are, soon found some items to pick over. Wasn't there a family feud between eldest son Michael and his stepmother Nancy? Why had the First Family refused to see their grand-daughter for her first 18 months? And what about young Ron and his wish to be a dancer? How would the Joffrey Ballet crowd go down with Betsy Bloomer and the rest of the Regans' conservative Californian set? The press has had fun with Ron's marriage, in jeans and sneakers, his griping about exploitation in the ballet and his standing in line for unemployment benefit, saying that since all America was on the dole, he was too. Happily for the President, the supermarket tabloids have never found any real skeletons to rattle. And the Regans, with years of Hollywood experience, have shrugged off the showbiz prattle. But recent weeks must have stretched even the Gipper's tolerance. Patty Davis, Nancy, and Ronald's actress daughter, has just written a tantalizingly autobiographical 'novel' about growing up in an anti-war protester in a political family. And Ron has become a correspondent for Playboy, and appeared on network television in his underpants. His zany performance, in a hot-pink shirt and white briefs, guitar in hand and

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Princess of Wales opens the new Materinity Unit, Newham General Hospital, E13, 10.45.
The Duke of Kent, Vice Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, visits Logica Plc, Newman Street, W11.30.

Recital by the Cathedral Choir, Cuschester Cathedral, 1.10.

Organ recital by Keith Elcombe, Maxwell Hall, Salford University, Crescent House, 12.35.
Concert by the Northern Sinfonia, Spa Grand Hall, Scarborough, 7.30.
Centenary Concert, Great Hall, Exeter University, 7.30.

Bristol Cathedral, College Green, 1.15.

Concert by Guildhall School of Music Chamber Orchestra, Bishopsgate Hall, 2.30
Piano recital by Bernard d'Amore, Lecture Theatre Block, Essex University, Colchester, 7.45.
Concert by the City University Symphony Orchestra, St. Giles, Cripplegate, EC2, 7.30.

TV top ten

- National top ten television programmes in the week ending February 9:
BBC 1
EastEnders (Thu/Sun) 23.05m
Eastenders (Tue/Sun) 21.90m
New Extended Late Late Show 15.65m
That's Life 14.30m
Dart's Wall 13.55m
The 5th Wave 13.50m
Every Second Counts 13.25m
News and Weather (Sun 21.10) 13.00m
Wogan (Fri) 12.85m
Saturday Night 12.65m

Roads

The Midlands: M5: Contraflow between junction 4 and 5 (Bromsgrove/Droitwich) only one lane northbound; northbound entry at junction 5 closed. M1: Roadworks southbound between junctions 22 (A50 Leicestershire and Coalville) and 23 (A512 Loughborough and Shepshed); one lane closed; delays.
Wales and West: M5: Only one lane open on the northbound carriageway at junction 25 (Taunton). A419: Major reconstruction work on the Cirencester to Swindon road at South Cerney; delays, avoid if possible. A39: Lane restrictions and temporary signals between Street and Walton, Somerset.

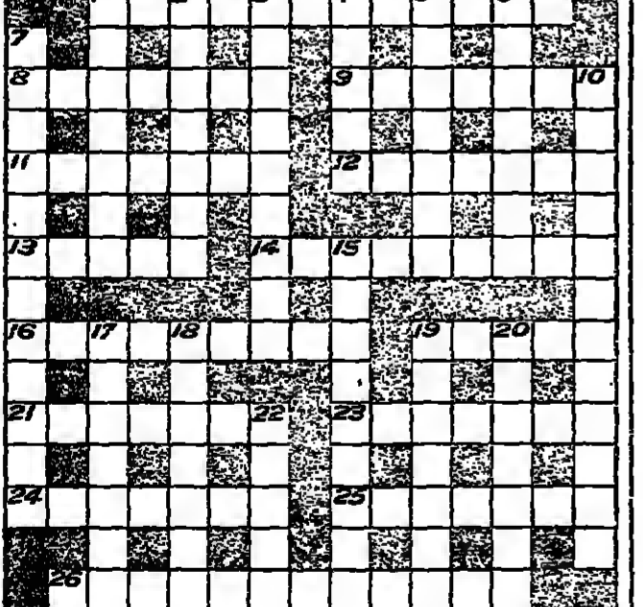
Weather forecast

A cold E airstream will be maintained with a complex area of low pressure over France moving away S.
6 am to midnight
London, SE England, East Angles: Mainly cloudy, with scattered snow showers; winds E fresh or strong, locally gale; max temp 10 (34).
Central N, SW England, Channel Islands: Mainly cloudy, some isolated snow showers; winds E fresh or strong, locally gale; max temp 9C (37).

High Tides

Table with columns: TODAY, AM, HT, PM, HT. Locations include London Bridge, Aberdeen, Avonmouth, etc.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,972



Anniversaries

Births: Mary I, reigned 1553-58.
Deaths: Alessandro Volta, physicist and inventor of the electric battery, Como, Italy, 1745;
Ramanarishnan, teacher and poet;
Hugues Boussinesq, mathematician;
Ernst Mach, physicist;
Turis, Czechoslovakia, 1838 (the died on Feb 19, 1916 at Haar, W. Germany);
Deaths: Maria Lather, Diebener, Germany, 1546;
Michaelaergel, Rome, 1564;
Robert Oppenheimer, physicist, Princeton, New Jersey, 1957.

The pound

Table with columns: Bank, Bid, Ask. Includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, etc.

Lighting-up time

London 5.51 pm to 6.37 am
Belfast 5.23 pm to 6.41 am
Edinburgh 5.53 pm to 7.00 am
Manchester 6.16 pm to 6.56 am
Paris 6.16 pm to 6.56 am

Yesterday

Table with columns: Temp, Wind, Rain, Cloud. Includes London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, etc.

Around Britain

Table with columns: Sun, Rain, Max, Min, Cloud. Includes East Coast, South Coast, etc.

ACROSS
1 Squeakers and Son in pantomime (9,3).
2 Tar discoloration makes us hold back (7).
3 Letter-writer may claim to be this afterwards, note (7).
4 Mental disposition and a style of painting (7).
5 Raise hockey side that's incomplete without a team leader (7).
6 Sweetest thing in the limits of cooconything? (5).
7 Doctor's visitor declaring himself intolerant of delay (9).
8 What a swine! Mr Toad proved to be! (4,3).
9 Dock - the end for a dirty dog? (7).
10 Worn by Tommy, with place on the river (7).
11 Say, are you in debt? For this painter quite the contrary (5).
12 Bordering the street, con-founded type of slippery path (5).
13 Merfiful hindrance holding up German veto (7).
14 To be obliged to embrace a girl appears to be daunting (7).
15 Shares in reconstruction of a 4 at 19 act (2).
16 Favourite to hold the lead from its current form (8,4).
17 Fish - with a rod, that's plain (9).
18 Paronomasia injection 19.
19 What a swine! Mr Toad proved to be! (4,3).
20 Dock - the end for a dirty dog? (7).
21 Worn by Tommy, with place on the river (7).
22 Say, are you in debt? For this painter quite the contrary (5).

General
Bookellers Fairs Association, City Book Market, St. Olave's Parish Hall, Mark Lane, EC3, 11.
Sale of art books, 11 Chaucer Rd, Cambridge, 7.30.
Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Drug Trafficking Offences Bill, remaining stages, private Bills.
Lords (2.30): Local Government Bill, committee, first day; Marriage (Wales) Bill, second reading.

Snow Reports

Table with columns: Depth, Conditions, Runs to resort, Weather. Includes Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland, etc.

Portfolio

Portfolio - how to play
Monday-Friday, record your daily Portfolio total.
If you are unable to telephone the Portfolio total, you may use the published weekly dividend figure you have won on the previous week. These cards are not valid for that week, and must claim for future to contact the claims office for the reason within the stated period.

Abroad

Table with columns: MIDDAY, C, F, Cloud, Rain, Snow, Thunder. Includes Alcala, Alcala, Alcala, etc.

Abroad

Table with columns: MIDDAY, C, F, Cloud, Rain, Snow, Thunder. Includes Alcala, Alcala, Alcala, etc.